From:	Phyllis
To:	McGovern, Marc; jdeverereux@cambridgema.gov; Carlone, Dennis; Kelley, Craig; Mallon, Alanna; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Simmons, Denise; Toomey, Tim; Zondervan, Quinton
Subject:	Objection to resolution on boycott of businesses doing business with Israel
Date:	Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:48:11 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

We wanted to express our strong opposition to the resolution to boycott businesses doing business with Israel. Unfortunately, we will be out of town and unable to attend the Monday city council meeting in person. We cannot express how upsetting such a proposal is to us long term Cambridge residents. I would feel extremely uncomfortable living in a city that enacted such a proposal, feeling that I was surrounded by hidden, and not so hidden, hostility.

What is most upsetting about this proposal is that it singles out Israel as if it is the only nation that has policies to which people might object. Why are we not proposing similar action against all those other nations that carry out policies significantly worse than Israel's? How about China? Saudi Arabia? Qatar? UAE? Myanmar? Or a host of other countries where we might object to policies or actions?

It is the singling out of Israel that makes one question the motives behind the proposal, as if Israel offered nothing positive to the world despite its many achievements in medicine, humanitarian aid, and scientific development among many other areas. Given the lessons of history, one must question the motives behind a resolution that singles out a Jewish country for punishment. Would we like our country to be judged only by those policies with which we disagree and not on our overall achievement? One should not forget that Israel is the only democracy in the middle east. In particular, it has a functioning judiciary much like our own which has been open to redress the grievances against the government, unlike any other country in the middle east. And, indeed, the Israeli judiciary has taken many decisions against its government. Why are we singling out Israel and none of the other more seriously flawed regimes, policies and actions ?

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and thank you for your work on the city council.

Sincerely,

Harvey and Phyllis Baumann
19 Bay Street
Cambridge, MA 02139